14th March 1956]

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY : No such report has come to the Government. If specific instances are quoted, it will be looked into.

SRI K. VINAYAKAM : Sir, what is the exact connotation of the phrase ' backward class people '—does it mean economically backward or economically poor or otherwise? For, from experience we have found in Chingleput, the Collector has not exempted any backward class from payment of this contribution of 25 per cent. All villages which asked for this sinking of wells have been made to pay, even though they happen to be backward. What is the attitude of the Government in regard to this?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY : I suppose ' backward classes ' are people who are educationally backward. So far as the instances mentioned by the hon. Member are concerned, he may kindly give me full information.

Highways Workers, South Malabar

* 3407 Q.—SRI K. P. GOPALAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state— 9-30 a.m.

(a) whether the Government have received a memorandum recently from Sri Mariappan, Secretary, South Malabar Range of the Highways Workers' Union, requesting them to increase the salary, dearness allowance, etc., of the workers of the Highways Department; and

(b) if so, the action taken thereon?

THE HON. SRI R. SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI : (a) Yes.

(b) The matter is under consideration.

SRI K. P. GOPALAN : Sir, are the Government aware that after the workers sent the memorandum to the Hon. Ministers as well as to the Government there has been victimisation and dismissal of workers not only in South Malabar but in many other places in Malabar district? Will the Government be pleased to make an enquiry into the matter and see that no victimisation takes place on account of the normal trade union activities

THE HON. SRI R. SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI : Sir, I have no knowledge of the allegations made by the hon. Member. If he gives me details about the incident in writing, I shall have it enquired into.

Transport Advisory Boards

* 3408 Q —SRI K. P. GOPALAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Religious Endowments and Transport be pleased to state whether the Government have decided to constitute Transport Advisory Boards in all districts in the State?